NUMB. DXXI.

The SPECTATOR.

Vera redit facies, diſſimulata perit. Pe. Arb.

Tueſday, October 28. 1712.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Have been for many Years loud in this Aſ-
'ſertion, That there are very few that can
'ſee or hear, I mean that can report what
'they have ſeen or heard; and this thro'
Incapacity or Prejudice, one of which diſables al-
moſt every Man who talks to you from repreſent-
ing things as he ought. For which Reaſon I
am come to a Reſolution of believing nothing I
hear; and I contemn the Men given to Narration
under the Appellation of a Matter of Fact Man:
And according to me, a Matter of Fact Man is
one whoſe Life and Converſation is ſpent in the
Report of what is not Matter of Fact.

'I remember when Prince *Eugene* was here, there
was no knowing his Height or Figure, till you,
Mr. SPECTATOR, gave the Publick Satisfaction in
that Matter. In Relations, the Force of the Ex-
preſſion lies very often more in the Look, the
Tone of Voice, or the Geſture, than the Words
themſelves; which being repeated in any other
manner by the Undiſcerning, bear a very diffe-
rent Interpretation from their original Meaning.
I muſt confeſs, I formerly have turn'd this Hu-
mour of mine to very good Account; for when-
ever I heard any Narrations utter'd with extraor-
dinary Vehemence, and grounded upon confide-
rable Authority, I was always ready to lay any
Wager that it was not ſo. Indeed I never pre-
tended to be ſo raſh, as to fix the Matter any par-
ticular Way in Oppoſition to theirs; but as there
are an hundred Ways of any thing happening,
beſides that it has happen'd, I only controverted
its falling out in that one Manner as they ſettled
it, and left it to the Ninety nine other Ways,
and conſequently had more Probability of Suc-
ceſs. I had arrived at a particular Skill in warm-
ing a Man ſo far in his Narration, as to make
him throw in a little of the Marvelous, and then,
if he has much Fire, the next Degree is the Im-
poſſible. Now this is always the Time for fixing
the Wager. But this requires the niceſt Ma-
nagement, otherwiſe very probably the Diſpute
may ariſe to the old Determination by Battle. In
theſe Conceits I have been very fortunate, and
have won ſome Wagers of thoſe who have pro-
feſſedly valued themſelves upon Intelligence, and
have put themſelves to great Charge and Expence
to be miſinform'd conſiderably ſooner than the
reſt of the World.

'Having got a comfortable Sum by this my Oppo-
ſition to publick Report, I have brought my ſelf
now to ſo great a Perfection in Inattention,
more-eſpecially to Party Relations, that at the
ſame time I ſeem with greedy Ears to devour up
the Diſcourſe, I certainly don't know one Word
of it, but purſue my own Courſe of Thought,
whether upon Buſineſs or Amuſement, with much
Tranquility: I ſay Inattention, becauſe a late Act
of Parliament has ſecur'd all Party-Lyars from the
Penalty of a Wager, and conſequently made it
unprofitable to attend to them. However, good
Breeding obliges a Man to maintain the Figure
of the keeneſt Attention, the true Poſture of
which in a Coffee-houſe I take to conſiſt in lean-
ing over a Table, with the Edge of it preſſing
hard upon your Stomach; for the more Pain the
Narration is received with, the more gracious is
your bending over: Beſides that, the Narrator
thinks you forget your Pain by the Pleaſure of
hearing him.

(Price Two-pence.)

'Fort *Knock* has occaſioned ſeveral very per-
'plex'd and inelegant Heats and Animoſities; and
'there was one t'other Day in a Coffee-houſe where
'I was, that took upon him to clear that Buſineſs
'to me, for he ſaid he was there. I knew him
'to be that ſort of Man that had not Strength
'of Capacity to be inform'd of any thing that
'depended merely upon his being an Eye-Witneſs,
'and therefore was fully ſatisfy'd he could give me
'no Information, for the very ſame Reaſon he be-
'liev'd he could, for he was there. However, I
'heard him with the ſame Greedineſs as *Shakeſpear*
'deſcribes in the following Lines:

I ſaw a Smith ſtand on his Hammer, thus,
With open Mouth ſwallowing a Taylor's News.

'I confeſs of late I have not been ſo much a-
'maz'd at the Declaimers in Coffee-houſes as I
'formerly was, being ſatisfied that they expect
'to be rewarded for their Vociferations. Of theſe
'Liars there are two Sorts. The Genius of the
'firſt conſiſts in much Impudence and a ſtrong
'Memory; the others have added to theſe Quali-
'fications a good Underſtanding and ſmooth Lan-
'guage. Theſe therefore have only certain Heads,
'which they are as eloquent upon as they can,
'and may be call'd Embelliſhers; the others re-
'peat only what they hear from others as literally
'as their Parts or Zeal will permit, and are called
'Reciters. Here was a Fellow in Town ſome
'Years ago, who uſed to divert himſelf by tel-
'ling a Lie at *Charing-Croſs* in the Morning at eight
'of Clock, and then following it through all
'Parts of the Town till eight at Night; at
'which Time he came to a Club of his Friends,
'and diverted them with an Account what Cen-
'ſure it had at *Will's* in *Covent-Garden*, how dange-
'rous it was believed to be at *Child's*, and what
'Inference they drew from it with Relation to
'Stocks at *Jonathan's*. I have had the Honour to
'travel with this Gentleman I ſpeak of in Search
'of one of his Falſhoods; and have been pre-
'ſent when they have deſcribed the very Man they
'have ſpoken to, as him who firſt reported it,
'tall or ſhort, black or fair, a Gentleman or a
'Raggamuffin, according as they liked the Intel-
'ligence. I have heard one of our ingenious
'Writers of News ſay, that when he has had a Cu-
'ſtomer come with an Advertiſement of an Ap-
'prentice or a Wife run away, he has deſired the
'Advertiſer to compoſe himſelf a little, before he
'dictated the Deſcription of the Offender: For
'when a Perſon is put into a publick Paper by a
'Man who is angry with him, the real Deſcription
'of ſuch Perſon is hid in the Deformity with
'which the angry Man deſcribed him; therefore
'this Fellow always made his Cuſtomers deſcribe
'him as he would the Day before he offended, or
'elſe he was ſure he would never find him out.
'Theſe and many other Hints I could ſuggeſt to
'you for the Elucidation of all Fictions; but I
'leave it to your own Sagacity to improve or
'neglect this Speculation.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient
Humble Servant.

Poſtſcript *to the* Spectator *Number* 502.

N. B. *There are in the Play of the* Self-Tormentor *of* Terence's, *which is allowed a moſt excellent Comedy, ſeveral Incidents which would draw Tears from any Man of Senſe, and not one which would move his Laughter.*

At the Deſire of ſeveral Ladies of Quality.
By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane, this preſent Tueſday, being the 28th of October, will be preſented a Play, call'd Aureng-Zebe, or, The Great Mogul. The Part of the Emperor by Mr Keene, Aureng Zebe by Mr. Powell, Morat by Mr. Booth, Arimant by Mr. Boman, Nourmahal by Mrs. Knight, Indamora by Mrs. Rogers, Meleſinda by Mrs. Cox. By Her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

This Day is Publiſhed,

A Poem to his Excellency the Lord Privy-Seal, on the Proſpect of PEACE. By Mr. Tickell. Printed for J. Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head, over againſt Catherine-ſtreet in the Strand.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

On Thurſday the 6th of November, at Garraway's Coffee-houſe in Exchange-Ally in Cornhill, at 4 in the Afternoon about 50 Casks of fine Batavia Arrack, genuine, and of the true Flavour (only 1 Cask in a Lot, gage 40 Gallons and above) being the remaining Part of the Arrack imported by the Oley Frigate, Capt Opie from the Eaſt India. Now in Warehouſes (where they have continued neat ever ſince landed) at Buttolph Wharf between London-bridge and Billingſgate. To be ſeen and taſted on Tueſday and Wedneſday, the 4th and 5th of November next, and all Thurſday (as above) till the Time of Sale. Catalogues ſhall be timely diſperſed, and to be had at the Place of Sale, and where the ſaid Arrack is. To be ſold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane in Tower-ſtreet.

PLAYING-CARDS.

Being a Collection of Whiſk, Baſſet, Ombre, and Ordinary Cards, of the beſt Makers, Part of the Stock chargeable but with the Half-penny Duty. Sold by John Cliff in Queen-ſtreet Cheapſide, where all Gentlemen, Traders, &c. may be ſupplied with any Quantity at the very loweſt Prices.

Juſt Publiſhed in Two Pocket-Volumes,

The Works of Mr. Thomas Otway, containing Alcibiades, Don Carlos Prince of Spain, Titus and Berenice, Friendſhip in Faſhion, The Soldier's Fortune, The Atheiſt, The Orphan, or, The Unhappy Marriage, Caius Marius, Venice preſerv'd, or, A Plot diſcover'd; with his Poems on ſeveral Occaſions, and ſome Love-Letters. To which is added, An Account of the Life and Writings of the Author. Printed for J. Tonſon in the Strand, and ſold by W. Taylor at the Ship in Pater-noſter-Row, at which Places may had the Tatlers, in Four Volumes, 8vo. printed on Royal and Medium Paper.

The famous Cholick-Water, publiſhed theſe 19 Years, and highly eſteemed throughout Great-Britain for its giving ſpeedy Relief in Caſes of Wind in the Stomach, Wind Cholick, Vapours of both Kinds, Stitches and Pains in the Sides, Gripes, Vomiting and Looſneſs, and all other Sickneſs, Weakneſs and Indiſpoſitions of the Stomach and Bowels, as after a full Meal, Fruit, or any Surfeit, &c. immediately diſpelling or digeſting any thing that offends, experienced by the Author 25 Years, and uſed by him in his own Practice with ſuch Succeſs that it hardly ever fail's fully anſwering expectation, is ſtill ſold at theſe 7 Places only, viz Old-Man's Coffee-houſe at Charing-Croſs; Richard's at Temple-Bar; Alice's at the Parliament-Houſe, Mr. Clark, Stationer, in Burchin-Lane, Mr. Bettſworth, Bookſeller, on London-Bride; Mr. Smith at the Poſt-Office in Ruſſell-ſtreet, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lacey, Stationer, in the Burrough of Southwark: At 2 s. 6 d. a Bottle. 'Tis not Purging but a very rich Cordial, and pleaſant to take a Dram of at any Time. No Family ought to be without it, for in ſudden Illneſs it is equal to any Cordial whatever, comforting the Stomach and cheering the Spirits.

LONDON: Printed for *S. Buckley* and *J. Tonſon*, and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*.

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